

TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human Trafficking: the exploitation of individuals using force, fraud, or coercion (assault/violence, manipulation, false promises, debt, isolation, threats, confiscating identification documents, etc.) to make them provide **labor/services** or engage in **commercial sex** (any sex act in exchange for anything of value). When a minor (<18 years) is made to engage in commercial sex it is considered human trafficking regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Human trafficking does not require the movement of individuals across state or international borders. Human trafficking can include recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting someone for labor/services and/or commercial sex.

Venues for labor trafficking: domestic work, landscaping, factory, farming/agriculture, construction, door-to-door sales, health/beauty, food service, hotel/hospitality, illicit activity, entertainment, commercial cleaning, begging/peddling, etc.

Venues for sex trafficking: fake massage/spa businesses, online ads, pornography, street-based, escort services, bars/clubs, truck stops, hotels/motels, residential brothels, etc.

Traffickers can be anyone (family members, intimate partners, friends, peers, strangers, business owners, employers, gangs, etc.) and any gender, age, and race/ethnicity. It's critical to sufficiently prosecute traffickers and buyers in order to reduce the supply and demand of human trafficking, and not penalize victims/survivors. Criminal records make it extremely difficult for survivors to acquire employment, housing, child care, etc.

Figure 1. Texas human trafficking cases and victims reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), 2019-2023

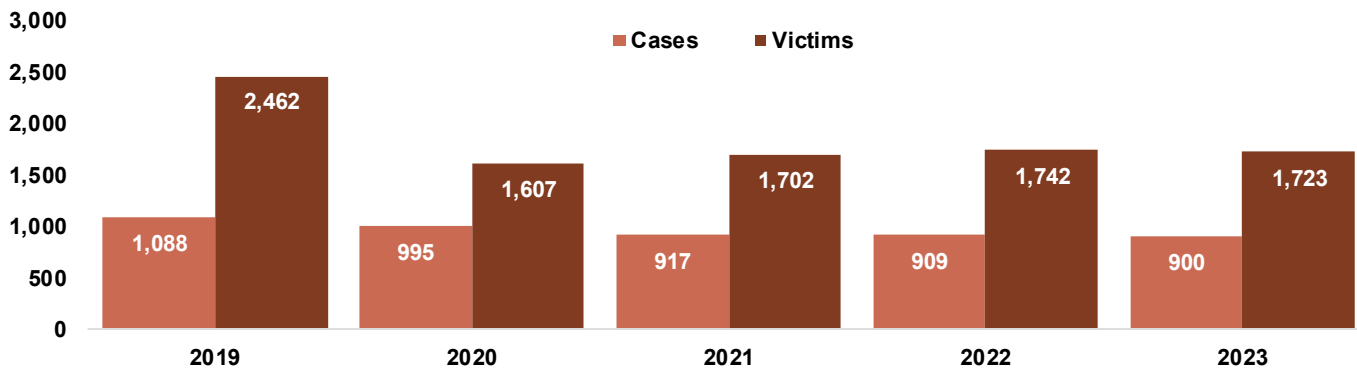
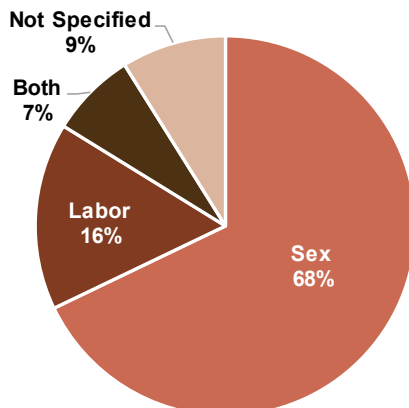


Figure 2. Types of human trafficking among Texas cases reported to the NHTH, 2019-2023

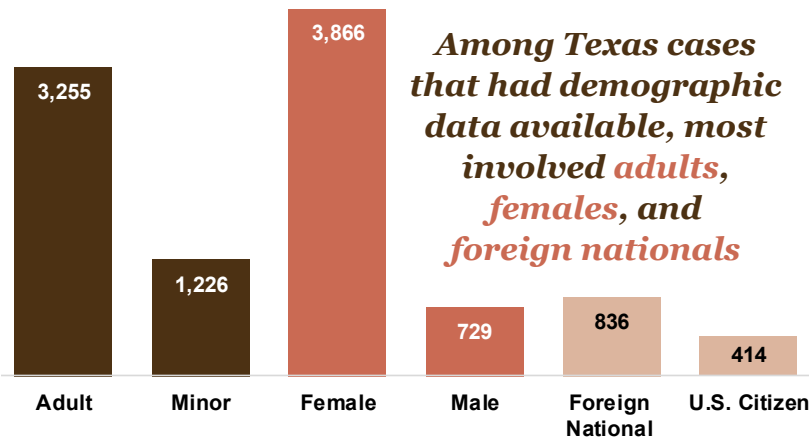


There were over 4,800 cases of human trafficking that included over 9,200 victims reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) from Texas during 2019-2023



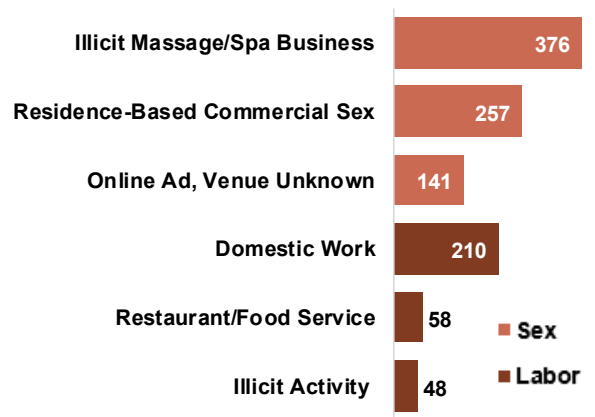
The NHTH uses the word **case** to represent distinct situations of trafficking reported to the hotline (via phone call, text, e-mail, online report, or webchat), but it is not an indication of law enforcement involvement in the situation. A case can involve one or more potential victims of trafficking. Data are subject to change and the NHTH cannot verify accuracy. These data are not a comprehensive representation of human trafficking within an area.

Figure 3. Age, gender, and citizenship status among Texas cases reported to the NHTH, 2019-2023



Individuals reporting to the NHTH may not provide demographic and/or venue information. These data are non-cumulative and subject to change. NHTH reports demographic data at the case level, and does not disclose exact data when responses occur less than three times. For citizenship status, most cases had missing/unknown information. Foreign National - any individual who is not currently a U.S. Citizen or legal permanent resident. A large proportion of cases do not have specific venue information and are described as 'Other' instead.

Figure 4. Top 3 reported venues of sex and labor trafficking among Texas cases reported to the NHTH, 2019-2023



According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, there were over 250 human trafficking offenses in Tarrant County from 2019-2023

1,046 patients were identified as possible human trafficking victims at JPS Health Network in Tarrant County during 2020-2024

The majority of these patients were female (86%) and aged 25-44 years (50%)



Figure 5. JPS Health Network patients identified as possible human trafficking victims by age group and gender, 2020-2024

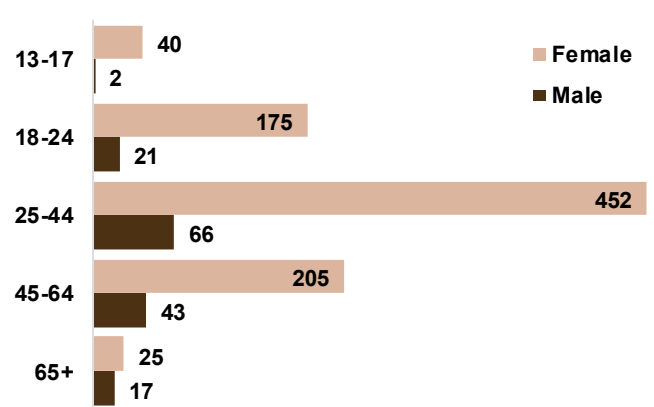


Figure 6. JPS Health Network patients identified as possible human trafficking victims by year and gender, 2020-2024

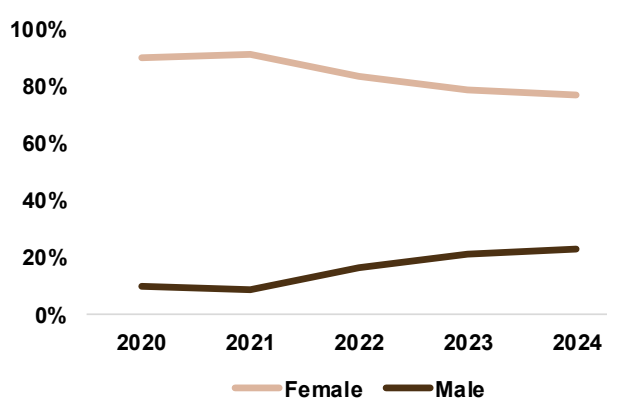
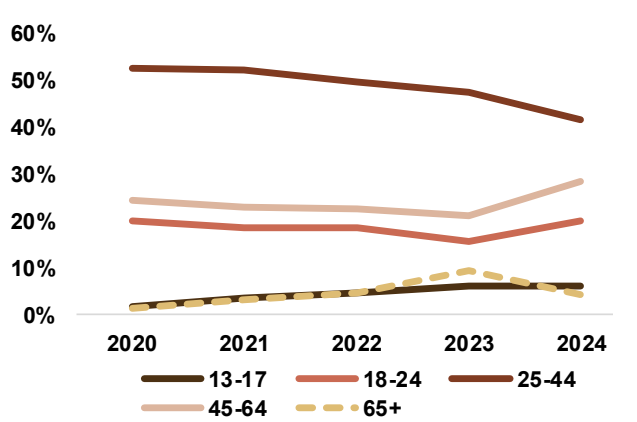




Figure 7. JPS Health Network patients identified as possible human trafficking victims by year and age group, 2020-2024



Anyone can become a victim of human trafficking. Certain factors can increase someone’s risk of being trafficked:

- Unemployment
 - Poverty
 - Debt
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- Children and Youth in Foster Care
 - Children and Youth in Juvenile Justice Systems
- 

- Substance Use Disorders
 - Mental Health Disorders
- 

- Homeless
 - Runaways
 - Unstable Living Situations
- 

- Migrant Workers
 - Undocumented Immigrants
 - Refugees
- 

- Trauma
 - Violence
 - Abuse and Neglect
- 

- Individuals with Disabilities
- Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Sexual and Gender Minorities (LGBTQ+)
- Women and girls

From 2019-2024, Unbound Now served over 1,300 confirmed and potential victims of human trafficking in Tarrant County

How You Can Make a Difference

- Share the National Human Trafficking Hotline ➡
- Reduce trafficking demand [slaveryfootprint.org]
- Raise awareness in your community [dhs.gov/blue-campaign/request-materials]
- Learn how to recognize human trafficking: [hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/texas-human-trafficking-resource-center] [learningportal.hhs.texas.gov/course/index.php?categoryid=41] [polarisproject.org/recognizing-human-trafficking/]
- Ten ways you can help: [acf.hhs.gov/otip/about/ways-endtrafficking]

Law Enforcement Resources

- Fort Worth Police Department Human Trafficking Unit **Call 817-392-4533**
E-mail humantrafficking@fortworthtexas.gov
- Tarrant County 5 Stones Taskforce **Call 682-382-1533** [5stonestaskforce.org]
- Tarrant County Sheriff’s Office Human Trafficking Unit **Call 682-382-1690**
E-mail humantrafficking@tarrantcountytexas.gov

Resources and Support

National Human Trafficking Hotline
Call 1-888-373-7888 Text 233733
[humantraffickinghotline.org]

Unbound Now North Texas
24/7 Crisis Response & Referral Line
Call 817-668-6462 [unboundnow.org/ntx]

Children/Teens

- [allianceforchildren.org]
- [childrenatrisk.org/anti-human-trafficking/]
- [traffick911.com]
- [unboundnow.org/the-underground/]
The Underground: 24/7 drop-in center for youth (located at One Safe Place) **Call 817-885-7735**

Women

- [rescueher.org] Crisis Hotline **Call 817-891-2093**
- [thenetfw.com]
- [valianthearts.org]
- [womenscentertc.org]

Data sources: Administration for Children and Families– Office on Trafficking in Persons, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), Polaris Project, Unbound Now
Data Brief provided by: Statistical Analysis Team